

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

November 27, 2016

1st Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand if you are able.

“Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

* Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near.

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ’s coming.

Let us worship God!

—based on Philippians 4:4-5, NIV

Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, © 2004, CRC Publications

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #61:1,2,6,7 ***“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”***

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

6. O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7. O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of peace.

Words: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.; Music: French processional, 15th c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. OneLicense.netLicense #A-711218

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Songs of Praise:

Reading of Isaiah 61:1-2

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LUYH #56:1-4

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1744), P.D.; Music: Christian F. Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715;
adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John W. Wilson © 1983 Hope Publishing Company; CCLI# 678905

"With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim" LUYH #66:1-4

1. With joy I heard my friends exclaim:
"Come, let us in God's temple meet."
Within your gates, O Zion blest,
shall ever stand our willing feet.

Refrain

*Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.
Zion, sing; sing out your peace and joy.*

2. How beautiful does Zion stand,
a city built compact and fair;
the people of the Lord unite
with joy and praise to worship there.

Refrain

3. They come to learn the will of God,
to pay their vows, God's grace to own,
for there is judgment's royal seat,
Messiah's sure and lasting throne.

Refrain

4. For Zion's peace let prayers be made;
may all that love you prosper well!
Within your walls let peace abide,
and gladness with your children dwell.

Refrain

Psalm 122; Words: Psalter, 1912, alt.; ref. Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.; Music: English carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), P.D.; CCLI #678905

“Rejoice and be glad,”

Lighting of Advent Candle: **"WHO IS JESUS ?" – A PRINCE**

Eliot & Sue Blom & Trevor Blom

Song of Assurance: LUYH #157:1-3 ***“Meekness and Majesty”***

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father’s pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, “Father, forgive.”

Refrain

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Refrain

*“Meekness and Majesty” Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
© 1986, Kingsway’s Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing CCLI# 678905*

*During the singing of the last verse, children ages 3-first
grade are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children & Worship.*

Offering: General Fund

*Hymn of Preparation: LUYH 749:1-2 ***“Spirit of the Living God”***

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
2. Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love.

Words: st. 1 Daniel Iverson, 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com; st. 2 Michael Baughen, 1982, © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, © 1994 Birdwing Music, admin. EMICMGPublishing.com. CCLI# 678905

“Yours is the kingdom;”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12 (pg. 958) Read by Michelle De Kok

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted Because of Righteousness”***

Time of Prayer

* Song of Application: LUYH #117:1-3 ***“Blest Are They”***

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.*

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.

Refrain

*MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12,
Descant: Michael Joncas (b. 1951); © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; One License.net License #A711218*

“Shine for all to see.”

* Benediction

* Closing Song of Praise: LUYH #117:4-5 ***“Blest Are They”***

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

*MATTHEW 5:3-12; Words and Music: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12,
Descant: Michael Joncas (b. 1951); © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; One License.net License #A711218*

*Postlude

Welcome! We cordially welcome all who worship with us today. With joyful hearts let us approach God and share kindness toward one another. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

The **Sunday School & Catechism** classes will resume again on Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Friends,

Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a few other passages – the Beatitudes of Jesus are generally acknowledged to be among the highest expressions of religious insight and moral inspiration. Together we can affirm them, meditate upon them, and maybe even engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. Yet, the main question is this: How are we to *live* in response to them? This is the question I hope we will keep in front of us as we study them together throughout the months ahead. May God bless us as we do so!

In His Grace,
Pastor John

September 18: Intro to the Beatitudes

September 25: "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

October 2: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

October 9: "Blessed Are the Meek"

October 16: "Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"

October 23: "Blessed Are the Merciful"

November 6: "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart"

November 13: "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

November 27: "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship where churches buy gifts for a child who has a parent in prison. Today there is a table in the fellowship hall where there are gift suggestions for Angel Tree for those who would like to purchase a gift for a child of a prisoner. We will be purchasing **1 gift (\$25.00)** for each child. You may also donate cash toward the purchase of a gift and we then would purchase the gift for the child for you. Please return the gifts to the church office by December 11.

Choir: Please join us today as we meet for rehearsal after the morning service in the sanctuary. We will continue practicing on Sundays till Christmas. If you like to sing, please join us. We welcome all ages, and especially men! Next week, December 4, we will meet for practice following the church potluck.

The **Youth Group** will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Group Room. Anyone in high-school is encouraged to come.

The **Elders & Deacons** will meet on Monday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Building Committee** will meet Tuesday, November 29 at 7 pm.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Golden Hour will meet on Thursday, December 1 at 1:30 p.m. We will study James 2:14-26.

Our **Church Potluck** will be held on Sunday, December 4, after the morning service. Please bring a 9x13 inch hot dish (enough to feed 12-15), and salad or dessert. Table service is provided as well as juice and coffee.

Sunday School Service Opportunity (and Adults!): For the month of November we are focusing on making care packages for our 13 college age young adults and older. We want them to know that we care about them. Some ideas might be baked goodies, homemade gifts, letters/cards of encouragement, gift cards, etc. You may place your items in the labeled basket that will be on the table across from the kitchen or give them to Danielle Van Zanten or bring them to the office no later than Wednesday, November 30.

Family Promise: We as an Evangelism Committee have committed as a church to be involved with Family Promise. We are a support church for Communion Church on third street in Mount Vernon. During the week of November 27—December 4 we have the opportunity to help out again. This is a wonderful way for you to volunteer to help those who are homeless and in need. Please check the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall and see if there is a time where you would be able to help.

Cookies and Pies will be served following the **Christmas Carol Celebration** on December 8 which is being sponsored by the New Earth Recovery board. They are looking for volunteers to bake a pie or bring cookies. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you are willing to bake. The board would really appreciate it.

You Are Cordially Invited to a Baby Shower: The GEMS girls celebrate Christmas by collecting baby items for Pregnancy Choices, and this year we are inviting YOU to join us as we let our love overflow. Bring your UNWRAPPED gift to church and put it under the little Christmas tree in the annex by Sunday, December 18. The GEMS will add your gifts to theirs at their Christmas party on December 21. Items needed most are disposable diapers, size NB to #4 and clothes for newborns: onesies, sleepers, outfits, sweaters and booties/socks. PLEASE NO BLANKETS OR QUILTS.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **October & November**. If your family is included in the list, please expect a call from the listed Elder to arrange the day and time for the visit. If you have questions about the schedule please call the listed Elder or call Henry Hammingh at 360-424-3019.

Elder	Family
Dave V	Jeff & Monica Droog
Dave V	Grace Faber
Greg A	Greg & Beth Boon
Greg A	Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp
Greg B	Helena Kuiper
Greg B	Mardick & Jill Stevens
Henry H	Randy & Julie Oostra
Henry H	Henry & Sharon Kuipers
Darrel L	Woody & Wendy Heino
Darrel L	Larry & Maxine Greidanus
Pastor John	Steve & Katie Jungquist
Pastor John	Kendall Ackermann
Dennis D	Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek
Dennis D	Marinus & Jill Rouw

ADVANCED NOTICES

Blood Draw: A blood draw will be held on Monday, December 5, from 12:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. (closed from 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.) at the First Christian Reformed Church in the Fellowship Hall. Give so others may live.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, December 7 at **6:30 p.m.**

Potluck & Caroling: We will not have our regular evening service on December 11. We will begin with a Potluck at 6:00 p.m. and following that we will go caroling. Please make plans to join us for the evening. Please sign up by December on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date: Our **Candlelight Service** will be held on Sunday evening, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Donations for Neighbors in Need: Next week, December 4, you will have opportunity again to bring your donations of canned and non-perishable items for the food drive for "Neighbors in Need". Please bring your donations in the morning or evening to the church and place them in the basket located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date: On Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a **Christmas Carol Celebration** at First Christian Reformed Church. This event benefits **New Earth Recovery**, a Christian ministry bringing healing to those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction in the Skagit Valley. A freewill offering will be received. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your loved ones to kick off the Christmas season with an old-fashioned carol sing!

The Lord's Supper: Communion, Lord's Supper, Mass, Eucharist...it's one sacrament known by many names practiced in varying forms. Join us as we study Luke 22, John 6 and 1 Corinthians 11 to discover why Christians believe it's an essential means of receiving Christ and experiencing his presence. Never miss an episode; subscribe for free weekly email notifications and listen now at GroundworkOnline.com.

Be Content: Liz and his friends present a two-act play on contentment. The first features Toad Liz, an enchanted toad which grants wishes but cannot give contentment; and in the second Herculiz looks for work that will bring him happiness. Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Check out KC's special Advent Paper Chain Calendar craft at www.kidscorner.net.

Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	4:00 pm	Vida Nueva
	11:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Evening Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	7:00 pm	Elders & Deacons Meet
TUES	7:00 pm	Building Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study at Shari's
THURS	1:30 pm	Golden Hour

NURSERY:

Today: AM Infants & Toddlers

Jill Klunder, Danielle Van Zanten, Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: AM Infants & Toddlers

Sue Blom, Rayahna Oostra, Devin Van Zanten

GREETERS: Today

Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Darin & Michelle Kuipers, Henry & Sharon Kuipers

Next Week:

Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

AM: Joe & Annette LeClair, randy & Juli Oostra

USHERS

Today: Tim Hibma, Henry Hammingh, Tim van Hofwegen

Next Week: Larry Greidanus, Kermit Houck, Wiebe Van der Hoek

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Brooke Knoester, Carson Blom

Next Week:

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Beth Boon, Kylie Boon

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Joe & Annette LeClair, Bob & Andy Pippel, Betty Postma

Next Week: Church Potluck

SOUND SYSTEM

Today:

AM: Steve Greydanus

Next Week:

AM: Kendall Van Zanten

PROJECTION

Today:

AM: Josh Hammingh

Next Week:

AM: Nathan Van Beek

VIDEO TAPING

Today:

AM: Tim Hibma

Next Week:

AM: Mike Hibma

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Alice De Vries, Marjean De Groot

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Greg Boon

Accompanist: Sylvia Van Zanten

OFFERING: Next Week

December 4, 2016

AM: General Fund

PM Offering: Christian & Ramona Anderson with Campus Christian Fellowship

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Shirley Boonstra

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Katie Jungquist

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing " LUYH #521: 1-3
" Now Thank We All Our God" LUYH #543:1 & 3
"To God Be the Glory" LUYH #604:1-3

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 10 - Q&A 27-28

Q. 27 What do you understand
by the providence of God?

**A. Providence is
the almighty and ever present power of God¹
by which he upholds, as with his hand,
heaven
and earth
and all creatures,²
and so rules them that
leaf and blade,
rain and drought,
fruitful and lean years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
prosperity and poverty—³
all things, in fact, come to us
not by chance⁴
but from his fatherly hand.⁵**

¹ [Jer. 23:23-24](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#);

² [Heb. 1:3](#)

³ [Jer. 5:24](#); [Acts 14:15-17](#); [John 9:3](#); [Prov. 22:2](#)

⁴ [Prov. 16:33](#);

⁵ [Matt. 10:29](#)

Q. 28 How does the knowledge
of God's creation and providence help us?

**A. We can be patient when things go against us,¹
thankful when things go well,²
and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing will separate us from his love.³
All creatures are so completely in his hand
that without his will
they can neither move nor be moved.⁴**

¹ [Job 1:21-22](#); [James 1:3](#)

² [Deut. 8:10](#); [1 Thess. 5:18](#)

³ [Ps. 55:22](#); [Rom. 5:3-5](#); [8:38-39](#)

⁴ [Job 1:12](#); [2:6](#); [Prov. 21:1](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#)

Scripture Readings: Various Texts

Message: ***"The Providence of God"***

Time of Prayer

Offering: Marcia Bleeker

Song of Application: LUYH #43:1-3 ***"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"***

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 ***"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"***